ment, donations and royalty on the use of farmers' varieties; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) A decision has been taken to move for enactment of a Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights legislation. It is premature to comment on the final shape of the proposed Bill.

International Price of Urea

1102. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been fall in the International price of urea during the recent months;

(b) if so, the amounts of saving likely to be made by his Ministry on the import of urea as a result thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry propose to set up mobile soil testing vans with the amount due from the above savings; and

(d) if so, the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the subject of production and import of urea is handled by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, the subsidy on urea is paid form the Demand for Grants of that Ministry. Though the international price of urea has shown a declining trend in recent months, it is not possible to assess the savings likely to accrue in the subsidy bill. The increase in the cost of indigenously manufactured urea, owing to increase in feed-stock prices,has also offset the saving.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply to part (b) above, questions do not arise.

The Dark Weevil Rhizome Pests

1103. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the banana crop is highly and badly affected by the dark weevil rhizome pests;

(b) if so, the plan of Government to control this; and

(c) the steps being taken to eradicate these pests altogether?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Government is aware about the dark weevil rhizome pest commonly known as rhizome weevil. It is a major pest of banana in Kerala, Bihar, North-Eastern States, West Bengal, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing an All Project on Tropical Fruits at three Agricultural Universities viz. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Kerala Agricultural University, Kannara. In addition, ICAR has a National Research Centre on banana at Tiruchirapalli. efforts are being made to develop effective management strategies for control of rhizome weevil through this project and ICAR research centre.

(c) Following recommendations are being popularised by the States for effective control of rhizome weevil on banana:—

(i) Keep the plantation free from weeds which harbour the weevil.

(ii) Healthy suckers should be selected from fields known to be free from all stages of the banana rhizome weevil.

(iii) Banana suckers should be clearned before planting and dipped in 0.5% monocrotophos solution for 30 minutes to kill eggs and larvae of the insect.

(iv) Application of phorate @ 20 gram or Carbofuran @ 40 gram per plant once at the time of planting and second application four months after the planting.

(v) For trapping, old banana pseudostems are cut longitudenally into two halves and each half is placed face down between the plants. The adult weevil gathers under the piece of steam which are to be collected and destroyed.

Subsidy in Agriculture Sector

1104. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total amount of subsidy on account of water, fertilizers etc. being enjoyed by the agricultural sector during the last three years; item wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): A statement giving details of subsidies on fertilizers, electricity and irrigation to the agriculture sector during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

(Rs. Crores)

Item		1994-95 (Actuals)	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97 (R.E.)
Subsidy to agriculture sector through inputs				
1.	Fertiliser (Total)	5769	6735	7767
1.1	Indigenous fertiliser	4075	4300	4743
1.2	Imported fertiliser	1166	1935	1350
1.3	Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with concession to farmers	528	500	1674
2.	Electricity**	2423	N.A.	N.A.
3.	Irrigation***	6685	7523+	N.A.

NOTE: NA Not Available

** Electricity includes all subsidies to electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimate of electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.

*** The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government Irrigation System. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

\+ Quick estimates.

Proposal for Farm Sector

1105. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the proposal on farm sector for which the responsibility has been entrusted to Cabinet Secretary for study and finalisation which appeared in the Times of India dated 19th October, 1997?